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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
16 June 1966

ARMY, DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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16 June 1966

HIGHLIGHTS

The government's move with force against dissidents in Hue has thus far resulted in relatively little violence. Another North Vietnamese Army regiment has been confirmed in South Vietnam.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Heavy fighting was reported early today between a Viet Cong battalion and a USMC reconnaissance team near Chu Lai (Para. 1). MACV confirms another North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regiment in South Vietnam (Paras. 2-3). A recently reported NVA unit was apparently destined for southern South Vietnam (Paras. 4-5). Weekly review of South Vietnam transportation routes and battle statistics (Paras. 6-7).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
The government's forceful move against dissidents in Hue has been accompanied by relatively little violence thus far (Paras. 1-4). Police continued to disperse Buddhist demonstrators in Saigon today (Para. 5), as Buddhist Institute representatives told US Embassy officers that militants now determining Institute policy are determined to maintain their hard line until Premier Ky and Chief of State Thieu are deposed (Paras. 6-7).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. Communist Political Developments: A French Foreign Office official has characterized as much too optimistic the recent press report that Hanoi is moving toward accepting the idea of a peaceful settlement of the war (Paras. 1-4).

ANNEX:

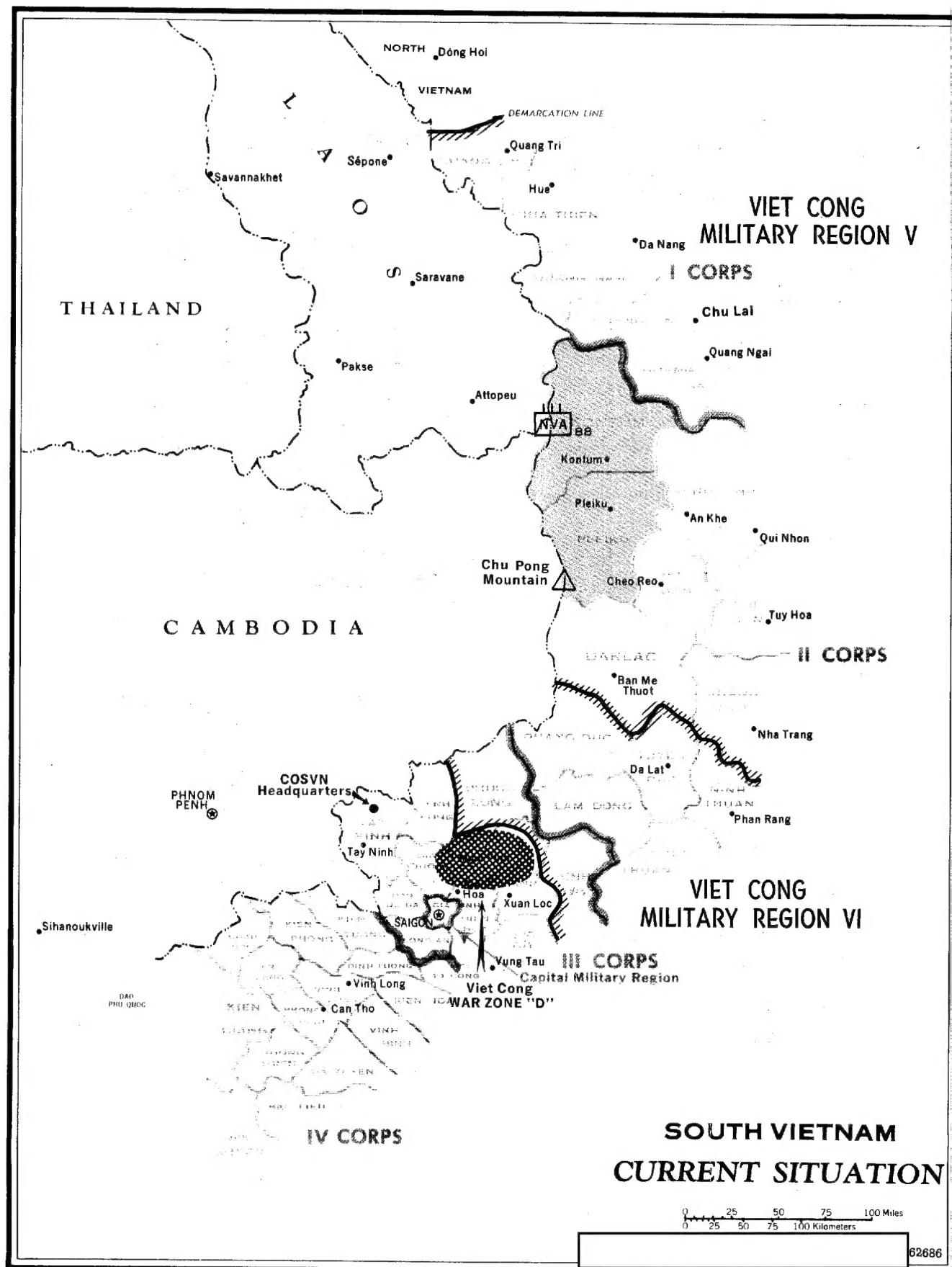
South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties and
Weapons Losses: 1962 - 31 May 1966

General Statistical Data
Composite Annual Totals
Viet Cong Incidents

South Vietnam: Battle Statistics

Personnel Losses--May 1966
Viet Cong Incidents--May 1966
Weapons Losses--May 1966
Chieu Hoi--May 1966
Desertions--April 1966

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Communist forces, striking in estimated battalion-strength, launched a predawn attack today against an 18-man US Marine reconnaissance team defending an isolated hilltop observation post approximately 12 miles northwest of Chu Lai. Tactical air strikes and artillery bombardment supported the badly outnumbered Marine unit, but heavy ground fire in the vicinity of available landing zones impeded reinforcement and extraction operations for almost six hours. Preliminary results of the action indicate US losses of nine killed, 15 wounded, and two helicopters damaged and one destroyed. Enemy casualties have been placed at 43 killed.

Another PAVN Regiment in South Vietnam

2. MACV has accepted another North Vietnamese Army regiment--the 88th--in South Vietnam. The 88th has a strength of 2,000 men and is located in the tri-border area of Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam adjacent to Kontum Province. It is the fifteenth confirmed NVA regiment to date in South Vietnam. The parent unit of the 88th Regiment is the 308th Division. If past patterns of infiltration were followed, cadre from this regiment were probably left in the DRV to form and train a new 88th Regiment.

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3. Total confirmed NVA strength in South Vietnam now stands at 32,810. Another 4,200 men in various units are carried in the probable or possible categories. In addition, there are a number of units

which are not included in the above-mentioned categories. There is presently insufficient evidence on these reported units to include them in the order of battle but, if the reports are accurate, the total number of North Vietnamese troops now in South Vietnam would be well over 50,000 men.

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4. One such recently reported unit is of particular interest. Two North Vietnamese soldiers captured in late May in western Pleiku Province in the vicinity of Chu Pong Mountain stated that they were members of the 95th Artillery Battalion of the 68th Artillery Regiment. They stated that their regiment was formed in October 1965 in the DRV using cadre from the 304th Division and the 351st Artillery Division. The units making up the regiment were the 95th Battalion (120-mm. mortar) and the 10th and 11th battalions (105-mm. howitzer). The 95th Battalion left North Vietnam in February 1966 and arrived in the Chu Pong area in May. They did not bring their weapons with them but had them issued upon arrival. According to their ID cards, their final destination was the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) in the southern part of South Vietnam (Nambe). According to MACV, this is the first instance since early 1965 indicating that infiltration groups have been destined this far south rather than Military Regions 5 or 6.

5. A recently received translation of a notebook captured from a member of Infiltration Group 623, which left the DRV in August 1965 indicates that this unit arrived in War Zone "D" in late 1965. This was one of the first indications that entire North Vietnamese units--probably battalions--were being sent to Nambe.

Operational Status of Major Surface Lines of Communications

There was a limited decline in the operational capability of South Vietnam's major highways during the period 4-11 June. Specifically Route 13 in Binh Duong Province, Interprovincial Route 4 in Vinh Binh Province, and Route 17 "A" in Bac Lieu Province were closed. No change was reported in the operational capability of the nation's coastal railway.

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Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

7. The week of 4-11 June compared with the previous week of 28 May - 4 June

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
28 May - 4 June	9	0	2	5	457
4-11 June	9	0	4	0	525

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabotage</u>	<u>Propaganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
28 May - 4 June	88	16	121	691
4-11 June	49	11	139	733

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/PAVN</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>
Killed	902	1,240	121	151
Wounded	---	-----	219	328
Missing/Captured	120	166	23	30
TOTALS	1,022	1,406	363	509

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>
Killed	109	142	14	6
Wounded	636	741	18	14
Missing/Captured	4	4	0	0
TOTALS	749	887	32	20

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III. Weapons Captured

	VC/PAVN		GVN	
	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>	<u>28 May-4 June</u>	<u>4-11 June</u>
Individual	291	413	38	91
Crew-served	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	313	435	38	91

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Government Forces Move in Hue

1. The impasse between government forces and dissident elements in Hue was broken today when police field forces from Saigon and a battalion of progovernment airborne troops began clearing away Buddhist altars which have been blocking the streets for some ten days. Buddhists protesting the removal of the altars were dispersed by tear gas, and eligible draftees among them were detained for possible induction into the armed forces. By evening (Vietnam time), government troops were in control of the main roads leading into the city after having cleared them of obstructions. Today's action followed hours of effort last night by government commanders to persuade Buddhists to remove their altars and disperse peacefully.

2. Buddhist and "struggle" force elements in the city are apparently maintaining their nonviolent approach to the government's action thus far. In a broadcast over the clandestine "Voice of Buddhist Salvation" today, the 1st Division Buddhist chaplain appealed to troops to remain nonviolent in their protests of the government's "repression of Buddhism." During the day one group of some 400 1st Division troops reportedly demonstrated against the government's action but dispersed without violence. Other dissident troops and Buddhists gathered at pagodas and at 1st Division headquarters in the city. Reports of a clash between local troops and the airborne battalion during the early evening hours (Vietnam time) remain unconfirmed as yet. At last report, the city was quiet at midnight (Vietnam time).

3. Tri Quang, continuing his hunger strike in a city hospital, reportedly is to be placed under "informal" detention by the government and will be allowed no contact with visitors.

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4. Further government action will probably include completing a sweep of the city and a blockade of pagodas in which some "struggle" force leaders have reportedly taken refuge. Government force may also be applied soon in the northernmost provincial capital of Quang Tri, where "struggle" influence has also been strong.

Buddhists in Saigon

5. Buddhist monks today continued their efforts to organize demonstrations in the capital area for the fourth consecutive day. Police, meanwhile, continued to make arrests and set a 9 p.m. (Vietnam time) curfew in Saigon this evening. One tactic recently introduced by the Buddhists has been to block major roads leading into the city with burning piles of trash, which, according to the US Embassy, has thus far worked to the disadvantage of the Buddhists by irritating drivers stuck in rush-hour traffic.

6. Conversations between US Embassy officers and two Buddhist Institute leaders today tend to confirm that the militants are now determining Buddhist policy in Saigon. Although Tam Chau remains chairman of the Buddhist Institute, he has lost control over policy and has been absent from Institute proceedings for the past several days. More militant monks on an 11-man Institute policy council are determined to maintain a hard line until Ky and Thieu are deposed. In addition, the General Association of Young Monks and Nuns in Saigon has also come under the control of extremist monks, who have declared that if the Buddhist Institute council does not enforce the policy of Tri Quang, they will.

7. One of the Buddhist leaders also told a US Embassy officer today that "all top Institute leaders" (excluding Tam Chau) will go to Saigon city hall tomorrow and ask to be put in jail, in accordance with an earlier, militant Institute communiqué.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The Asian Director of the French Foreign Office, Manac'h, has characterized as "much too optimistic" the 13 June report out of Hanoi by the French Press Agency (AFP) to the effect that the idea of a peaceful solution to the Vietnam war is making headway among the North Vietnamese leaders. Manac'h stated that the AFP report did, however, tend to confirm French views that a growing sentiment of nationalism among the North Vietnamese leaders, plus the internal crisis in China, might eventually result in a less rigid attitude by Hanoi. The British Consul in Hanoi has also stated his belief that the AFP report is overly optimistic. He pointed out that the AFP man has only been in Hanoi a few months and is "very ambitious." He said he thought that the AFP representative does not have special access to high Hanoi officials and his reports are probably based on diplomatic corps rumors.

2. Manac'h expressed the opinion that the North Vietnamese Government must have been aware of the content of the AFP report because it was filed in the Hanoi post office. Since Hanoi did not refuse to allow the story to be sent, the French official reasoned, the North Vietnamese at least were not opposed to having AFP's interpretation of Hanoi's attitude on peace negotiations spread through the Western press.

3. The AFP report had cited certain factors which it alleged had led to the feeling in Hanoi that a "new atmosphere" had developed "within the past few days." The factors cited were: (1) All of Hanoi's allies with the exception of Peking ardently desire an early end to the Vietnam war; (2) "Reliable" sources indicate that Hanoi is now prepared to help the US "lose gracefully"; (3) Hanoi now believes it is in a position of strength and can therefore seek an end to the war without losing face; and (4) The forthcoming visit to Hanoi of former French cabinet minister Jean Sainteny could provide an opening for peace moves.

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4. The first two factors cited are, of course, not new. Hanoi has long stated its position that it would help the US withdraw gracefully from South Vietnam. The Eastern European bloc nations have long made it clear that they wish the war would end. As for the third factor, there is nothing to indicate that Hanoi believes its military position is any stronger now than it was in the past. Manac'h downplayed the significance of Jean Sainteny's trip, claiming that the AFP story "exaggerated" its importance. North Vietnamese statements in recent days have indicated no change in Hanoi's insistence on US acceptance of the "four points."

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South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties and
Weapons Losses: 1962 - 31 May 1966

1. General Statistical Data:

Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	Killed in Action		Wounded in Action		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses		
		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	
Jan	1962	1825	299	1294	475	212	116	390	890	1896	-	-
	1963	927	453	1754	908	318	102	379	1463	2451	457	683
	1964	1770	343	1223	913	-	555	240	1811	1463	917	532
	1965	2206	904	2203	1938	-	471	565	3313	2768	1700	711
	1966	3914	747	2648	1557	-	450	588	2754	3236	935	979
Feb	1962	1460	244	1205	300	316	124	353	668	1874	-	-
	1963	788	379	1082	656	303	82	292	1117	1677	253	399
	1964	2078	374	1055	916	-	303	289	1593	1344	708	471
	1965	1982	880	1564	1840	-	1394	309	4114	1873	2454	620
	1966	3100	1015	4727	2095	-	477	508	3587	5235	1076	1219
Mar	1962	1961	523	1456	737	551	140	523	1400	2530	-	-
	1963	1282	410	1443	851	368	66	222	1327	2033	467	367
	1964	2160	439	1456	1249	-	345	531	2033	1987	814	532
	1965	2056	751	2022	1633	-	720	394	3104	2416	1442	698
	1966	3670	938	5685	1961	-	466	604	3365	6289	1393	1632
Apr	1962	1933	387	1596	532	292	151	415	1070	2303	-	-
	1963	1331	506	1660	878	256	96	388	1440	2304	797	468
	1964	2284	594	1671	1584	-	398	245	2576	1916	990	424
	1965	1860	591	1909	1650	-	232	529	2473	2438	757	973
	1966	3235	573	2818	1522	-	121	483	2216	3301	594	829
May	1962	1825	390	1756	509	352	94	524	993	2632	-	-
	1963	1208	435	1895	889	295	94	695	1418	2885	463	564
	1964	2143	458	1135	987	-	202	242	1647	1377	723	281
	1965	2263	1049	1975	2143	-	873	548	4065	2523	1701	831
	1966	3566	661	4239	1454	-	196	652	2311	4891	493	1087
Jun	1962	1477	325	1666	613	413	77	441	1015	2520	-	-
	1963	1311	389	1863	772	310	90	437	1251	2609	580	394
	1964	2062	494	1005	1145	-	313	230	1952	1235	718	387
	1965	2597	1211	2208	1920	-	1260	189	4391	2397	2387	793
Jul	1962	1564	384	1544	686	424	212	542	1282	2510	-	-
	1963	1368	529	1918	1071	372	306	387	1906	2677	663	374
	1964	3045	900	1427	1812	-	510	219	3222	1646	1889	447
	1965	2520	1160	2980	1591	-	540	580	3425	3560	1375	882

Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	Killed in Action		Wounded in Action		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses		
		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	
Aug	1962	1642	377	2271	626	367	63	669	1066	3307	-	-
	1963	1349	411	1685	804	237	352	482	1567	2404	637	428
	1964	2580	721	1449	1612	-	478	282	2811	1731	1106	619
	1965	2498	808	3624	1945	-	287	606	3040	4230	705	1074
Sep	1962	1375	419	2218	646	365	59	446	1124	3029	-	-
	1963	1763	672	1982	1155	234	566	347	2393	2563	878	389
	1964	3091	819	1187	1759	-	737	230	3315	1417	1465	525
	1965	2473	655	3485	1724	-	266	838	2645	4323	778	838
Oct	1962	1357	365	1967	619	286	64	373	1048	2626	-	-
	1963	1422	428	1520	989	244	398	236	1815	2000	753	330
	1964	2827	739	1617	1583	-	693	576	3015	2193	1510	482
	1965	3330	961	3874	2416	-	225	660	3602	4534	762	1013
Nov	1962	1311	410	1982	834	368	92	561	1336	2911	-	-
	1963	3182	664	2333	1554	373	665	252	2883	2958	1595	455
	1964	1982	574	1747	1404	-	410	570	2388	2317	1104	515
	1965	3638	1034	5516	2056	-	520	592	3610	6108	1126	2164
Dec	1962	1346	294	2203	618	289	78	463	990	2955	-	-
	1963	1921	389	1440	961	191	320	190	1670	1821	724	546
	1964	2504	1002	1813	2053	-	1092	503	4147	2316	2111	666
	1965	4106	1239	4076	2262	-	926	516	4427	4592	1728	1158

Composite Annual Totals

Time Period	VC Incidents	KIA		WIA		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses	
		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC
1962	19076	4417	21158	7195	4235	1270	5700	12882	31093	5195	4049*
1963	17852	5665	20575	11488	3501	3137	4307	20290	28383	8267	5397
1964	28526	7457	16785	17017	-	6036	4157	30510	20942	14055	5881
1965	31529	11243	35436	23118	-	7848	6326	42209	41762	16915	11755
**1966	17485	3934	20117	8589	-	1710	2835	14233	22952	4491	5746

*Monthly data unavailable for 1962 Weapons Losses.

**Through 31 May 1966

2. Viet Cong Incidents: 1962 - 31 May 1966

Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	Small-Scale	A T T A C K S			Terrorism	Sabotage	Propa-ganda	Anti-Aircraft	
			Co. Size	BN. Size	Total					
Jan	1962	1825	528	21	0	549	839	180	257	-
	1963	927	242	8	2	252	447	49	179	-
	1964	1770	218	2	3	223	1244	129	174	-
	1965	2206	57	5	1	63	1489	272	170	212
	1966	3914	42	23	5	70	2490	312	299	743
Feb	1962	1460	480	20	0	500	613	137	210	-
	1963	788	181	13	1	195	433	69	91	-
	1964	2078	211	3	3	217	1389	210	271	-
	1965	1982	73	6	3	82	1411	267	91	131
	1966	3100	50	10	9	69	1829	201	172	829
Mar	1962	1961	561	27	0	588	660	290	423	-
	1963	1282	333	11	0	344	653	131	154	-
	1964	2160	198	4	1	203	1632	158	167	-
	1965	2056	80	3	3	86	1476	240	90	164
	1966	3670	32	10	10	52	2332	212	154	920
Apr	1962	1933	470	27	0	497	1024	220	192	-
	1963	1331	371	9	3	383	688	105	155	-
	1964	2284	211	6	3	220	1738	169	157	-
	1965	1860	38	1	4	43	1407	149	96	165
	1966	3235	61	7	9	77	2238	252	110	513
May	1962	1825	490	28	0	528	892	154	251	-
	1963	1208	344	13	0	357	608	93	150	-
	1964	2143	170	3	2	175	418	217	140	193
	1965	2263	40	7	11	58	1558	365	115	170
	*1966	3566	37	9	7	53	2552	295	106	560
Jun	1962	1477	339	23	0	362	736	157	222	-
	1963	1311	398	11	1	410	652	107	142	-
	1964	2062	128	10	2	140	1390	176	162	194
	1965	2597	62	1	6	69	1784	469	103	172

Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	Small-Scale	A T T A C K S			Terrorism	Sabotage	Propa-ganda	Anti-Aircraft	
			Co. Size	BN. Size	Total					
Jul	1962	1564	437	10	1	448	735	158	223	-
	1963	1368	398	8	1	407	698	80	183	-
	1964	3045	166	12	7	185	2132	286	224	218
	1965	2520	42	0	6	48	1706	400	154	212
Aug	1962	1642	368	10	0	378	885	146	233	-
	1963	1349	356	11	1	368	647	113	221	-
	1964	2580	107	3	3	113	1775	315	173	204
	1965	2498	38	9	5	52	1597	349	200	300
Sep	1962	1375	382	9	0	391	624	178	182	-
	1963	1763	483	17	3	503	889	164	207	-
	1964	3091	110	4	4	118	1938	482	178	375
	1965	2473	19	7	5	31	1530	278	185	449
Oct	1962	1357	406	12	1	419	583	189	166	-
	1963	1422	359	6	0	365	802	105	150	-
	1964	2827	75	2	6	83	1790	480	197	277
	1965	3330	24	8	12	44	1969	415	198	704
Nov	1962	1311	411	7	3	421	614	144	132	-
	1963	3182	631	11	3	645	1990	269	278	-
	1964	1982	57	2	1	60	1391	247	109	175
	1965	3638	26	16	10	52	2234	486	255	611
Dec	1962	1346	375	8	1	384	670	107	185	-
	1963	1921	258	3	0	261	1298	111	251	-
	1964	2504	81	9	6	96	1719	318	128	243
	1965	4106	32	18	7	57	2572	442	317	718

Composite Annual Totals

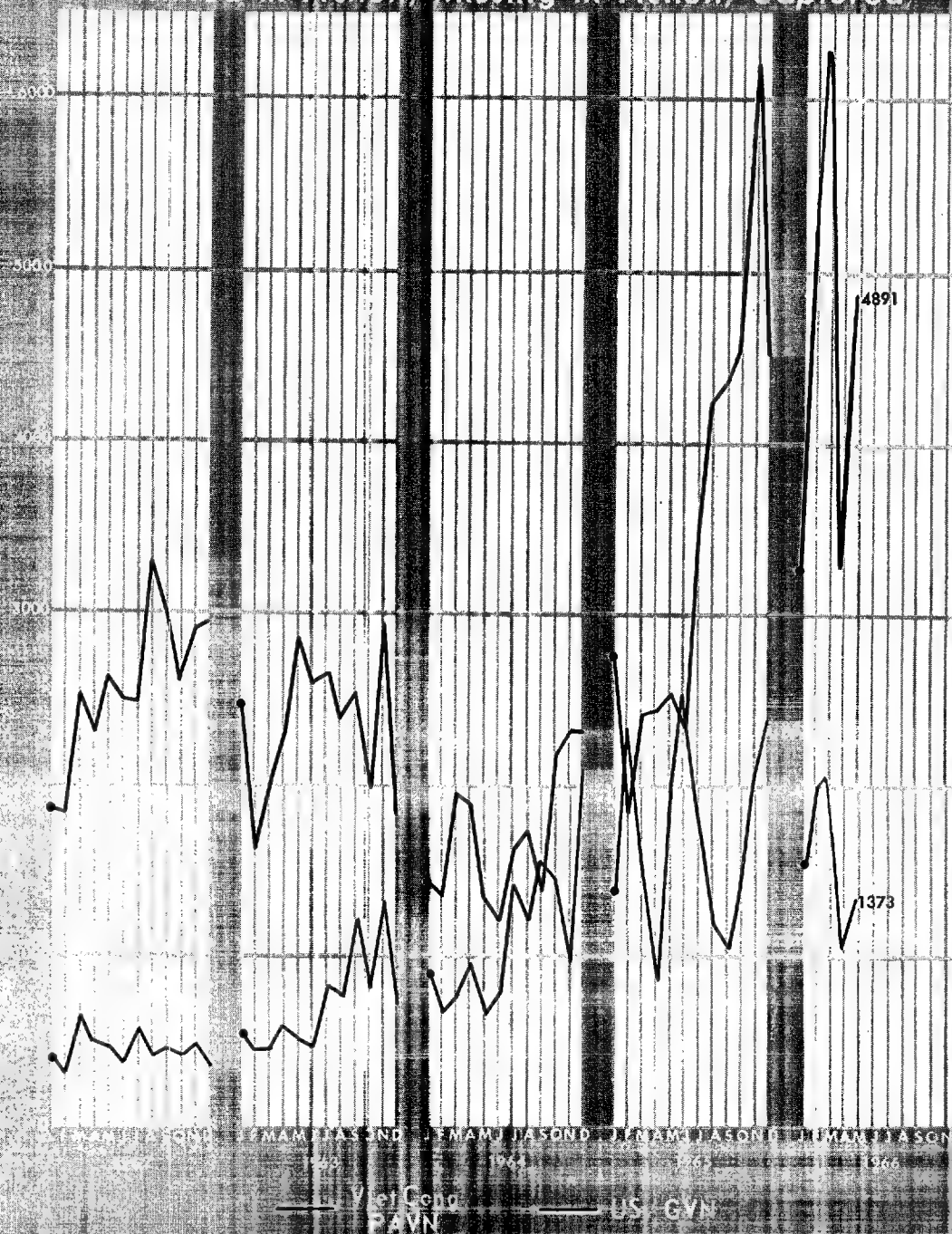
1962	19076	5247	6	212	5465	8875	2060	2676	No Data
1963	17852	4354	15	121	4490	9805	1396	2161	No Data
1964	28526	1732	41	60	1833	19556	3178	2080	1879
1965	31529	531	73	81	685	20730	4132	1974	4008
*1966	17485	222	59	40	321	11486	1272	841	3565

*Through 31 May 1966

SOUTH VIETNAM: BATTLE STATISTICS MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1966

PERSONNEL LOSSES (Killed in Action, Missing in Action, Captured)



Figures not included:
Viet Cong figures unavailable

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SOUTH VIETNAM: BATTLE STATISTICS

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1966

VIET CONG INCIDENTS



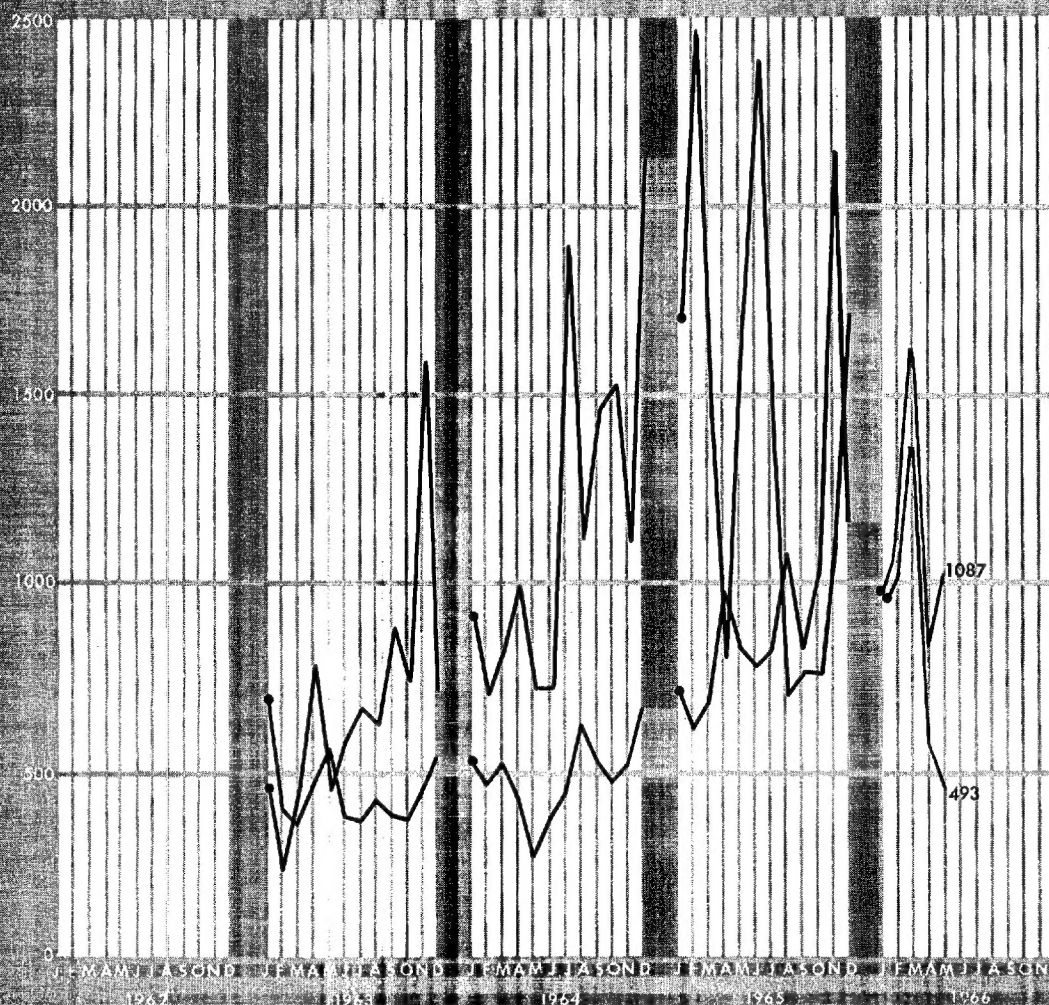
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SOUTH VIETNAM: BATTLE STATISTICS

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1966

WEAPONS LOSSES (South Vietnamese and Viet Cong)



Government Viet Cong

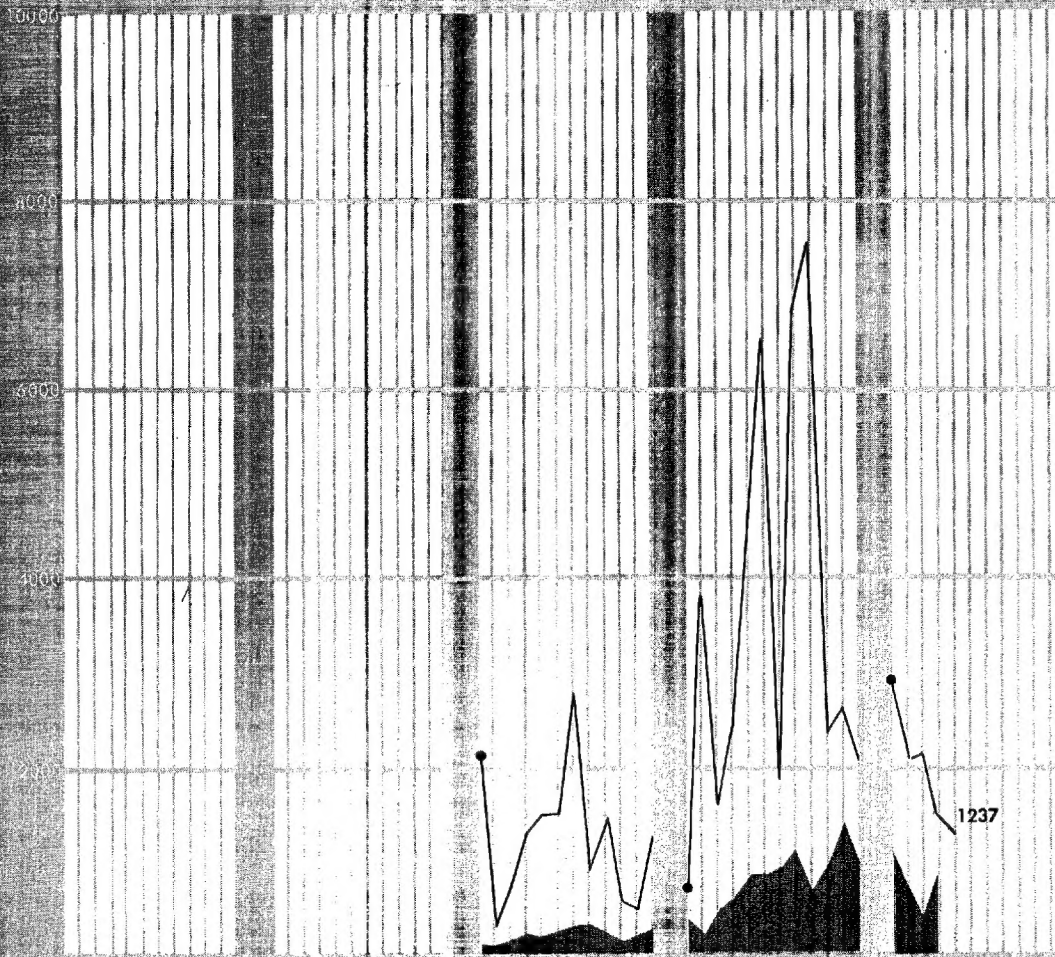
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SOUTH VIETNAM: BATTLE STATISTICS

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1966

CHIEU HOI RETURNEES



Annual Totals

	Military	Totals
1964	1,903	14,465
1965	9,472	42,552
1966*	4,631	8,766

*Military only thru 30 April
Totals thru 31 May

— Monthly Totals
■ Military

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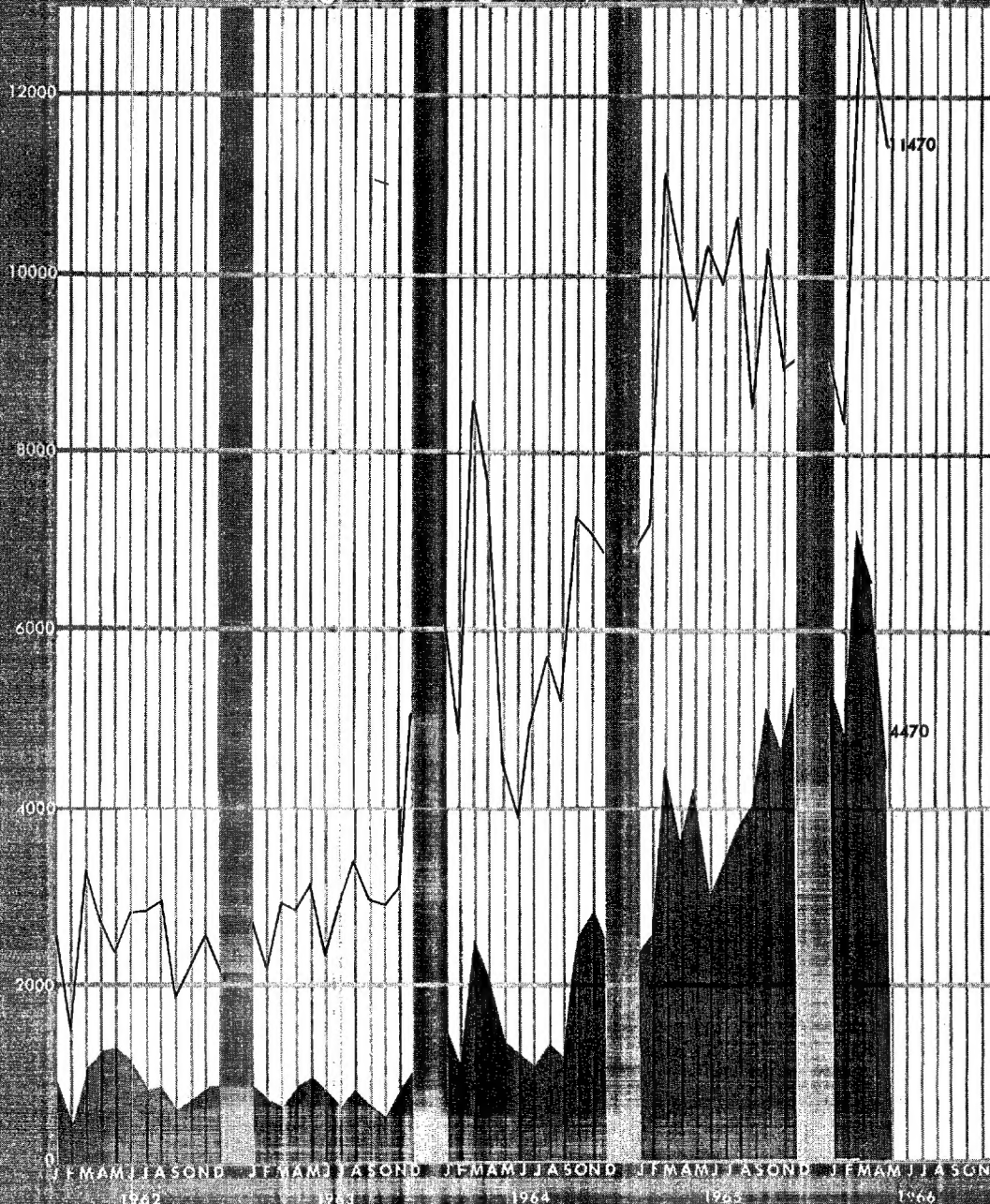
SOUTH VIETNAM: BATTLE STATISTICS

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1966

DESERTIONS

(Includes Regular, Regional, and Popular Forces)



Annual Totals

	Regular Forces	Totals
1962	11,203	29,924
1963	9,666	36,441
1964	21,441	73,010
1965	47,297	113,168
1966	23,133	45,500 THRU 30 APRIL

Monthly Totals

Regulars

GVN statistics do not differentiate between deserters who eventually return or enlist in other government units remain AWOL, or defect to the Viet Cong. Statistics do show that 53% of the regular force desertions are among draftees who comprise 13% of the regular force strength.

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